

C.P. SCREW WORM CONTROL CONTROL IN MISSISSIPPI

District Supervisors Report

Nov. 15, 1934

Territory; Hancock, Pearl River, Lamar, Lawrence, Jefferson Davis, Marian and Walthall Counties.

From Nov. 1, to Nov. 15, materials for treating screw worm cases have been distributed from the County Agents office in the above named counties. These materials were issued in sufficient amounts to each person making application to take care of all worm cases present.

In Pearl River County we have just completed a small project burning the carcasses on the open range. On this project we had 27 men for three days each scouting the ranges in the three northern beats of the County. These men were furnished from the Rural Rehabilitation Rolls and worked under the supervision of the Farm Foreman with interested Stockmen cooperating in the assignment of the territory to be scouted each day, final results from the 81 man days labor was 224 carcasses burned. Another project to put 100 men from the Relief Rolls to scouting the ranges has the approval of the local and district Relief Supervisor for Pearl River County but at last report it had been referred to the Washington office. In Hancock County men from the Relief Rolls are now being used to burn carcasses on the open range, this project calls for 56 men, they are allowed to work out their allotted time each week under the direction of interested Stockmen who are acting as Supervisors. When the time is worked by one crew another crew reports to the Stockman that is supervising the work in his community and is assigned the territory he is to work, by using these Stockmen we can have the entire range scouted. The final results for the Hancock County project have not been determined but judging from the early reports good results are being obtained. The CCC men in Hancock County are cooperating in the Carcass burning project, while they have not been instructed to scout the ranges they burn all carcasses they find as they work their territory.

A few traps were made by the local Relief department cooperation with the County Board of Supervisors but due to the cool weather since the traps were set very few flies were caught.

It is the opinion of the Stockmen that the presence on the gulf coast ear tick has made the losses from the screw worm much heavier than it would have been had the tick not been present. Among the sheep the worms nearly always enter the animal in the ear after they become ticky, these Stockmen claim that before the Forestry Department checked woods burning very little damage was done by these ticks, in some areas woods burning is still a common practice and in these small areas the percent of animals infested with worms hasnt been as heavy as in the unburned areas. Along the river from the southern half of Pearl River County and all of Hancock county hardly any damage has been done by these ticks or the screw worm, whether this was due to the fact that the ticks had never been introduced in this territory or that they were controled by the overflow in the spring of the year is not known, in this territory practicall no worm damage has been reported.

During the last two weeks attempt have been made to collect some ear ticks in order to conduct some experiments to determine the effectiveness of woods burning in their control but up to the present time no engorged ticks have been collected, the Stockmen claim that these ticks disappeared about a month ago. Mr. Greene, at the McNiel Experiment Station, has 1200 acres under fence and will cooperate in any way he can to determine the effectiveness of woods burning in controlling the ear ticks, he will help to carry out most any plan the Bureau suggests, said he would have the burning done but wouldnt have time to check the results, since this work is to be discontinued

C.P. SCREW WORM CONTROL WORK IN MISSISSIPPI-CONTINUED

at the end of this month and no engorged ticks can be found very little would be learned from burning now unless some one was stationed here to check the results next spring on the burned and unburned areas. In some few cases leading Cattlemen are dipping to control the ear tick, they claim that when this is done the percent of worm cases is decreased to such an extent that dipping pays in controlling the screw worms. The leading Stockmen all claim that where-ever the ranges are burned to control the ticks the number of worm cases is not near so high as in the unburned areas, the big difference in opinion is as to the best time of the winter to do this work. Since the weather has cooled off very little damage is being done now by the screw worms.

Respectfully submitted

M. Brunson

[Nov. 1934]

SCREW WORM CONTROL
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Report: Nov. 1 to Nov. 15, 1934

F. W. Prince, District
Supervisor

On Nov. 1, the county supervisors' work was discontinued. Since that date the county agents and assistant county agents have been issuing the benzol and pine tar oil to the people.

The screw worm infestation in my district has dropped considerably in the past ten days. On Friday night, Nov. 9, the first killing frost occurred. The temperature would drop down in the 30's and low 40's during the night and rise during the day to around 60 to 70° F. The temperature reached 29° F. one morning.

I have continued going from one county to another giving any assistance to the county agents and farmers I could. The work has been more or less a check-up on material and an attempt to distribute it equally among the different counties asking for it. The week before the killing frost the screw worm infestation along the northern edge of my district was at its highest.

Three carcasses were burned during the period Nov. 1 to Nov. 15. Two of them were used for demonstrations and one was found and burned without any observers. None of the animals' deaths were due to screw worms.

Soil temperatures have been taken in nine different counties. The readings were made at different times of the day and under

different conditions. These readings were mailed to D. C. Parman, Uvalde, Texas.

Different health departments and doctors have been contacted trying to get information about cases of screw worms in humans. The county agents and others say there have been cases in humans but the physician that attended could not be located.

On Monday, Nov. 12, some benzol and pine tar oil was picked up in Columbia and carried to Yazoo County, Satartia, Miss. They had a severe outbreak there around Nov. 1 which lasted up until the killing frost. A demonstration was held there which was attended by farmers and the agricultural boys of the high school.

From there I went to Madison County to give a demonstration but the infestation was reduced so much after the frost that the county agent did not see it necessary to hold one.

[Nov 7 1934]

F.E.R.A. SCREW WORM CONTROL MISSISSIPPI

Report of

District Supervisor

November 1 to 15, 1934

Territory: Forrest, Perry, Wayne, Jones, and Covington counties.

Since last report screw worm supplies have been issued where requested, but most of the time has been spent recording soil temperatures and scouting for Gulf Coast ear ticks and screw worm larva.

Approximately six gallons each of benzol and pine tar oil has been distributed through the county agents offices to 118 pearsons to treat 346 cases of screw worms. Jones county did not report any cases, but they must still have a few. In comparing these figures with 4000 cases reported from same territory over a period of three weeks prior to November, one notes a marked decline in number of cases of screw worms.

The decline is due to the cool weather, as the soil-temperatures indicates. The average temperatures since November 2nd are as following: 4 Ft. above surface 63 degrees; Surface 61 degrees; 2 ins. below 60°, and 4 ins. below surface 61 degrees. A complete report on these readings will not be given at this time, but the readings are all made at points representative of range areas, and at different times of day.

Not much has been accomplished toward collecting engorged female Gulf Coast ear ticks. It seems that most of the ticks have dropped and no losses are reported from screw worm injury any more and no one will get cattle up for inspection. One man drove up sixty head of sheep for inspection and about one hundred ticks were collected, but he will not drive any more until after surrup is made. The people of South Mississippi are afraid of ticks - they fear state wide dipping again and are afraid for a man to take live ticks. They realize that the tick must be controled, but they believe that fire is the only thing that will do the work. It is their intention to burn the woods this year.

The McNeill experiment station was visited to discuss with Mr. S.G. Greene the probability of making some tests on burning woods for tick control along with his project. Mr. Greene has 160 acres that he burns each year in February or March and same amount not burned for several years. Mr. Greene is of the opinion that there would be a marked control. He has not done any work on ticks, but said, "I have noticed in bird hunting that ticks are worse on land not burned for several years". He is anxious for the Bureau to do this work and the project can be arranged if there is money available and if ticks are collected. And the ticks will be collected if possible. There should be an accumulation of ticks on the unburned area if there is any control, and perhaps this could be checked if ticks are not collected to plant for counts.

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